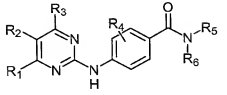
What is claimed is:

1. A compound having the structure:



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

R_1 is aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R_7;

R_2 is hydrogen;

R_3 is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R_4 represents one to four optional substituents, wherein each substituent is the same or different and independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl and lower alkoxy;

R_5 and R_6 are the same or different and independently $-R_8$, $-(CH_2)_aC(=O)R_9$, $-(CH_2)_aC(=O)OR_9$, $-(CH_2)_aC(=O)NR_9R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aC(=O)NR_9(CH_2)_bC(=O)R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aNR_9C(=O)R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aNR_{11}C(=O)NR_9R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aNR_8R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aOR_9$, $-(CH_2)_aSO_cR_9$, or $-(CH_2)_aSO_2NR_9R_{10}$;

or R_5 and R_6 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached to form a heterocycle or substituted heterocycle;

R_7 is at each occurrence independently halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, carboxy, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, acyloxy, thioalkyl, sulfinylalkyl, sulfonylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, substituted heterocyclealkyl, $-C(=O)OR_8$, $-OC(=O)R_8$, $-C(=O)NR_8R_9$, $-C(=O)NR_8OR_9$, $-SO_cR_8$, $-SO_cNR_8R_9$, $-NR_8SO_cR_9$, $-NR_8R_9$, $-NR_8C(=O)R_9$, $-NR_8C(=O)(CH_2)_bOR_9$, $-NR_8C(=O)(CH_2)_bR_9$, $-O(CH_2)_bNR_8R_9$, or heterocycle fused to phenyl;

R_8, R_9, R_{10}, and R_{11} are the same or different and at each occurrence independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted

aryl, aralkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl or substituted heterocyclealkyl;

or R_8 and R_9 taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocycle or substituted heterocycle;

a and *b* are the same or different and at each occurrence independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

c is at each occurrence 0, 1 or 2.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_5 and R_6, taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a substituted or unsubstituted nitrogen-containing non-aromatic heterocycle.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein the nitrogen-containing non-aromatic heterocycle is morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, pyrrolidinonyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl, hydantoinyl, tetrahydropyrindinyl, tetrahydropyrimidinyl, oxazolidinyl, thiazolidinyl, indolinyl, isoindolinyl, tetrahydroquinolinyl or tetrahydroisoquinolinyl.

4. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is substituted or unsubstituted aryl or heteroaryl with the proviso that the heteroaryl is not pyridyl.

5. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is substituted or unsubstituted aryl, furyl, benzofuranyl, thiophenyl, benzothiophenyl, quinolinyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, oxazolyl, benzoxazolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, cinnolinyl, phthalazinyl or quinazolinyl.

6. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is substituted or unsubstituted aryl or heteroaryl with the proviso that the heteroaryl is not imidazo[1,2a]pyrid-3-yl or pyrazolo[2,3a]pyrid-3-yl.

7. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is aryl.

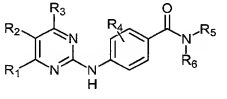
8. The compound of claim 3 the nitrogen-containing non-aromatic heterocycle is piperazinyl.

9. The compound of claim 3 the nitrogen-containing non-aromatic heterocycle is piperidinyl.

10. The compound of claim 3 the nitrogen-containing non-aromatic heterocycle is morpholinyl.

11. A composition comprising the compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. A method for treating a condition responsive to IKK-2 inhibition, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof and effective amount of a compound having the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein:

R_1 is aryl or heteroaryl optionally substituted with one to four substituents independently selected from R_7;

R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R_4 represents one to four optional substituents, wherein each substituent is the same or different and independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, lower alkyl or lower alkoxy;

R_5 and R_6 are the same or different and independently $-R_8$, $-(CH_2)_aC(=O)R_9$, $-(CH_2)_aC(=O)OR_9$, $-(CH_2)_aC(=O)NR_9R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aC(=O)NR_9(CH_2)_aC(=O)R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aNR_9C(=O)R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aNR_{11}C(=O)NR_9R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aNR_9R_{10}$, $-(CH_2)_aOR_9$, $-(CH_2)_aSO_cR_9$, or $-(CH_2)_aSO_2NR_9R_{10}$;

or R_5 and R_6 taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached to form a heterocycle or substituted heterocycle;

R_7 is at each occurrence independently halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, carboxy, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, acyloxy, thioalkyl, sulfinylakyl,

sulfonylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, substituted aralkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, substituted heterocyclealkyl, $-C(=O)OR_8$, $-OC(=O)R_8$, $-C(=O)NR_8R_9$, $-C(=O)NR_8OR_9$, $-SO_cR_8$, $-SO_cNR_8R_9$, $-NR_8SO_cR_9$, $-NR_8R_9$, $-NR_8C(=O)R_9$, $-NR_8C(=O)(CH_2)_bOR_9$, $-NR_8C(=O)(CH_2)_bR_9$, $-O(CH_2)_bNR_8R_9$, or heterocycle fused to phenyl;

R_8, R_9, R_{10} and R_{11} are the same or different and at each occurrence independently hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, aralkyl, substituted arylalkyl, heterocycle, substituted heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl or substituted heterocyclealkyl;

or R_8 and R_9 taken together with the atom or atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocycle or substituted heterocycle;

a and *b* are the same or different and at each occurrence independently selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and

c is at each occurrence 0, 1 or 2.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the condition is an inflammatory or autoimmune condition.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the inflammatory or autoimmune condition is rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, gout, asthma, bronchitis, allergic rhinitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, mucous colitis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, gastritis, esophagitis, hepatitis, pancreatitis, nephritis, psoriasis, eczema, dermatitis, multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, sepsis, conjunctivitis, acute respiratory distress syndrome, purpura, nasal polip or lupus erythematosus.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the condition is a cardiovascular, metabolic or ischemic condition.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the condition is atherosclerosis, restenosis following angioplasty, left ventricular hypertrophy, Type II diabetes, osteoporosis, erectile dysfunction, cachexia, myocardial infraction, ischemic diseases of heart, kidney, liver, and brain, organ transplant rejection, graft versus host disease, endotoxin shock, or multiple organ failure.

17. The method of claim 12 wherein the condition is an infectious disease.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the infectious disease is a viral infection.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the viral infection is caused by human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, human papilomavirus, human T-cell leukemia virus or Epstein-Barr virus.

20. The method of claim 12 wherein the condition is cancer.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the cancer is of the colon, rectum, prostate, liver, lung, bronchus, pancreas, brain, head, neck, stomach, skin, kidney, cervix, blood, larynx, esophagus, mouth, pharynx, testes, urinary bladder, ovary or uterus.

22. The method of claim 12 wherein the condition is stroke, epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, or Parkinson's disease.

23. The method of claim 20 further comprising administering an effective amount of a cytotoxic agent or radiation therapy.

24. A method for treating an inflammatory or an autoimmune condition comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1.

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising administering an effective amount of an anti-inflammatory agent.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is salicylic acid, acetylsalicylic acid, methyl salicylate, diflunisal, salsalate, olsalazine, sulfasalazine, acetaminophen, indomethacin, sulindac, etodolac, mefenamic acid, meclofenamate sodium, tolmetin, ketorolac, dichlofenac, ibuprofen, naproxen, naproxen sodium, fenoprofen, ketoprofen, flurbinprofen, oxaprozin, piroxicam, meloxicam, ampiroxicam, droxicam, pivoxicam, tenoxicam, nabumetome, phenylbutazone,

oxyphenbutazone, antipyrine, aminopyrine, apazone and nimesulide, zileuton, aurothioglucose, gold sodium thiomalate, auranofin, colchicine, allopurinol, probenecid, sulfinpyrazone, benzbromarone, enbrel, infliximab, anarkinra, celecoxib or rofecoxib.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the inflammatory or autoimmune condition is rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis, gout, asthma, bronchitis, allergic rhinitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, mucous colitis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, gastritis, esophagitis, hepatitis, pancreatitis, nephritis, psoriasis, eczema, dermatitis, multiple sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease, sepsis, conjunctivitis, acute respiratory distress syndrome, purpura, nasal polip or lupus erythematosus.

28. A method for treating a cardiovascular, metabolic or ischemic condition comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the condition is atherosclerosis, restenosis following angioplasty, left ventricular hypertrophy, Type II diabetes, osteoporosis, erectile dysfunction, cachexia, myocardial infraction, ischemic diseases of heart, kidney, liver, and brain, organ transplant rejection, graft versus host disease, endotoxin shock, or multiple organ failure.

30. A method for treating an infectious disease comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the infectious disease is a viral infection.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the viral infection is caused by human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus, human papilomavirus, human T-cell leukemia virus or Epstein-Barr virus.

33. A method for treating cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the

compound of claim 1.

34. The method of claim 33 further comprising administering an effective amount of an anti-cancer agent.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the anti-cancer agent is cyclophosphamide, Ifosfamide, trofosfamide, Chlorambucil, carmustine (BCNU), Lomustine (CCNU), busulfan, Treosulfan, Dacarbazine, Cisplatin, carboplatin, vincristine, Vinblastine, Vindesine, Vinorelbine, paclitaxel, Docetaxol, etoposide, Teniposide, Topotecan, 9-aminocamptothecin, camptoirinotecan, crisnatol, mytomycin C, methotrexate, Trimetrexate, mycophenolic acid, Tiazofurin, Ribavirin, EICAR, hydroxyurea, deferoxamine, 5-fluorouracil, Floxuridine, Doxifluridine, Ratitrexed, cytarabine (ara C), cytosine arabinoside, fludarabine, mercaptopurine, thioguanine, Tamoxifen, Raloxifene, megestrol, goscrclin, Leuprolide acetate, flutamide, bicalutamide, B 1089, CB 1093, KH 1060, vertoporfin (BPD-MA), Phthalocyanine, photosensitizer Pc4, demethoxyhypocrellin A (2BA-2-DMHA), interferon-α, interferon-γ, tumor-necrosis factor, Lovastatin, 1-methyl-4-phenylpyridinium ion, staurosporine, Actinomycin D, Dactinomycin, bleomycin A2, Bleomycin B2, Peplomycin, daunorubicin, Doxorubicin (adriamycin), Idarubicin, Epirubicin, Pirarubicin, Zorubicin, Mitoxantrone, verapamil or thapsigargin.

36. The method of claim 33 wherein the cancer is of the colon, rectum, prostate, liver, lung, bronchus, pancreas, brain, head, neck, stomach, skin, kidney, cervix, blood, larynx, esophagus, mouth, pharynx, testes, urinary bladder, ovary or uterus.

37. A method for treating stroke, epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, or Parkinson's disease comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1.

38. The compound of claim 7 wherein aryl is phenyl.